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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

WITH

APPENDIX,

CONTAINING CONSTITUTION AND RULES, TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS,
LIST OF LECTURERS, TO MARCH, 1863, ETC. ETC.

Received & adopted, March 31, 1863.

HALIFAX, N. S:
PRINTED BY McNAB & SHAFER.
1863.



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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE COMPANY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 1901

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Held at the City of New York

January 15, 1902

BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[Elected 16th April.]

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REPORT.

WITH all the sins of Halifax, and they are many, it would not be an easy task rightly to estimate the various instrumentalities which it contains for the moral and spiritual amelioration of the condition of its people. They may be traced to one source—"the cleansing influence of the blood of Immanuel;" "the Fountain opened in the House of David for sin and uncleanness." The evils to be remedied are the growths of ages; while many of the agencies which have been raised up for their removal, and to make known earnest religion, are only in infancy and youth. Although they have scarcely had their seed time, yet God hath rendered them prolific in Holy influences.

In view of this, the Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association respectfully beg to present their Ninth Annual Report. In the good providence of their heavenly Father they are called upon to recount the labours and trials, the hopes and disappointments, which have occurred in connection with another year's operations of the institution in this city; and they would raise their Ebenezer, saying, "Hitherto, hath the Lord helped."

Your Committee would express its gratitude that your Association has been enabled to close another and the tenth course of Lectures. The Course was

opened with a prayer meeting held in the Brunswick Street Church, and presided over by the Rev. Mr. Uniacke, and was addressed by the Revd. Messrs. Lathern and McGregor, and prayers offered by the Revd. Messrs. Boyd, Munro and Pope. The Prayer Meeting closing the course was held in St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday evening, the 10th of March, when the Rev. Mr. McNutt presided, and an address was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Addy, and prayers offered by the Revds. Mr. McGregor and Mr. Lathern, to all whom, with the Trustees of the Churches in which the meetings were held, the Committee tender cordial thanks. The Lectures of the season evinced an amount of talent equal to any yet delivered; and they regret that, with the exception of two or three of them, the attendance was so small as to show that young men in the city did not fully appreciate their value, and as a class they do not attend instructive lectures. They rejoice to report that the public have so far supported this department of the Association's labours. Its funds have suffered no pecuniary loss from them; though the number of Lectures by other institutions have increased to such an extent that your Committee experienced difficulty in obtaining lecturers, as well as audiences. And although they had involved your Association in pecuniary loss, and been attended with far more difficulty than they were, your Committee feel that they would not have been justified in abandoning this means of usefulness, as it was not at first undertaken by them as a source of profit, but for "the improvement of the spiritual and mental condition of young men;" and that object ought to be as important in their eyes now as it was ten years ago,

when fewer competitors occupied this field either as a source of mental improvement or of pecuniary profit. Nor would they have closed the tenth course so early, had it not been from the unexpected indisposition of the Rev. Jas. C. Cochran, who had kindly consented to deliver the closing lecture of the course, and they felt that it would be injudicious to apply to any other person to prepare a lecture at that late period, and with but slight chances of securing an audience. They beg to submit a list of Lecturers, with their subjects (see Appendix No. 1.), and they offer their grateful acknowledgements to the gentlemen, both lay and clerical, some of whom have at considerable inconvenience occupied the lecturer's place, as also to the several young gentlemen who gratuitously gave their services as door-keepers, and in various ways assisted in promoting the interests of this department. They have also much pleasure in reporting that they were visited by Robt. Baxter, Esq., a London Barrister, who delivered a very instructive lecture on the London Revivals, in Temperance Hall, previous to the opening of the regular course.

Your Committee report that your Saturday evening Bible Class is still sustained. The attendance has not materially increased since your last annual meeting, neither has it diminished any. Some are missed who once assembled there, but their places are occupied. The exercises for the past few years have been the consideration of the Gospel by John, and it has now been concluded. The prayerful study of the Epistle to the Hebrews has now been entered on. Your Committee invite your attendance; if defects exist in management, your Committee request investi-

gation that a remedy may be applied. It ought to be a melancholy reflection to earnest christians that when the hundred and one places of questionable or even sinful amusement are crowded, this humble retreat for devotion and reading God's word is but poorly encouraged, and on some occasions almost forsaken.

Your News Room has still been sustained with the leading religious and some of the secular newspapers of the day.

Your Library has not received many additions during the past year, and those books upon your shelves bear the impress of having been faithfully read. It is a source of regret that your Committee have been unable to increase the number of its books. They have in similar Reports appealed to those who may have second hand books to give them in donations, and appealed for increase of subscription but neither seem to have been successful. They claim for this the most select Library in the city. They would fain hope that through the blessing of God upon the perusal of the books they may have been productive of good in the community. But that good might in all human probability have been increased ten-fold if the Library were increased.

Ten new names have been added to your list of active members during the year. Your Committee bewail that they are so few, that in a community like Halifax so little interest is manifested in an institution which ought to have peculiar claims upon the Christian community, those claims are paramount. As this Association's rooms afford a pleasing and safe retreat for young men coming from the country to the city often cast among strangers, and exposed to many tempta-

tions, furnishing them with wholesome counsel and Bible instruction. A circular was issued to the members of the Association respecting this, and also regarding a more regular attention to its interests, but your Committee have yet to learn the results.

The Treasurer's account will be submitted. When the Committee assumed office there was a balance due the Treasurer of ninety dollars. No special effort has been put forth to increase the funds, no systematic appeal has ever been made to the general public for its support, and it is left to their successors in office to make the effort that may be deemed sufficient for the making it self-sustaining.

On classifying the payments made to the Association during the past year, as exhibited in the report for 31st Dec., 1862. The following was the result: — Three donations of twenty dollars and over; twelve persons paid subscriptions of eight dollars and over; forty-four persons paid subscriptions of four dollars and over; twenty-eight persons paid subscriptions of two dollars; ten paid subscriptions of less than two dollars.

They acknowledge with thankfulness the following donations: — The President, £7 10s.; William Miller, Esq., annual donation, £5; A. K. Doull, Esq., annual donation, £2 10s.; Edward Binney, Esq., annual donation, £5.

On the closing up of your accounts the present liabilities of the Association were \$180. There is about \$400.00 which will be available in shape of subscriptions during the year. The estimated expenses of conducting the operations of the Institution for the year may be estimated at five hundred dollars.

Of the management of the general affairs of the Institution your Committee have few things to report. With all its imperfections and all its feeble aspirations after the promotion of the glory of the Redeemer and the improvement of young men and others in this city, it is before you. They regret that some of the means of usefulness once employed by them has been discontinued or are closed against them. It has been remarked that neither the News Room nor Library is up to the standard a Halifax Young Men's Christian Association ought to be. If means were put into your Committee's hands they trust they would be judiciously husbanded. And in making comments upon the internal arrangements and management generally it ought to be remembered that the furniture has stood ten years, and that time makes no small change upon floor cloth and chairs where both have been considerably used; having served for the meetings of Committees of almost every religious institution in the city during the greater part of that period.

The Committees of this Association have often urged upon the community the early closing and half holiday movement. They notice that efforts were put forth to introduce the half holiday movement in the city last summer. It has failed, it is feared, from the fact that its principal advocates never sought it as a means to the attainment of a better observance of the Sabbath. That was the grounds on which this Association proposed and ever advocated the half holiday on Saturday afternoon.

It is with devout gratitude to their heavenly Father that the Association would record the fact that they have still maintained that harmony between the several sections of the body of Christ.

They rejoice in the increase of the catholic fundamental principles of the Association as exhibited in the "Week of Prayer," the Daily Prayer Meeting, and other gatherings of the children of God; and it is of importance that it should be so, for the times are ominous of evil. Men from whom better things might have been expected have endeavored to sap the foundation upon which our hopes are centered — "The Word of God;" and yet it may be of moment to know that comparatively few young men in Halifax will be perverted from that cause, for the testimony of those who know them best affirms that the vast majority of them are not given to reading. Many of them have sunk, or are gradually sinking too deep into the vortex of pleasure to study any philosophical work inculcating scepticism, when so many have already taken up their practical infidelity without reading for it. When the enemy comes in like a flood it is time for the people of God by His Spirit to lift up a standard against it.

The times are ominous of good. Your Committee would humbly trust that even their labor has not been in vain in the Lord. The Pen, the Press, the Platform, and the Pulpit, have been employed specially for the promotion of improvement of the spiritual condition of young men.

And now they would humbly call upon every member of the Association, and all who love the Lord Jesus devoutly, to consider the text, "And for this shall I be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." Consider that in our faith in prayer is the more efficacious means, that in God's hand is the blessing yet received. Aye, and that blessing will

descend at the asking of his believing people. Your Committee would confidently hope that intercessory prayer will be employed in the Closet, the Family, and the Social Prayer Meeting. And in answer to your prayers God's Holy Spirit will come in the conversion of the young men of our city. That the services of your Sanctuaries will yet be crowded with earnest worshippers. Hearts now fruitless and desert to all that is good will flourish with the sweet incense of the rose of Sharon. And all to be accomplished by faithful effort, and in answer to earnest believing prayer. "For this shall I be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them. I will increase them with men like a flock."

May He whose cause it is hear our prayers and bless our efforts. All which is respectfully submitted by the retiring Committee.

March 31, 1863.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

That this Association be called the "HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION."

ARTICLE II.

That the objects of the Association shall be

1st. The improvement of the spiritual and mental condition of Young Men.

2nd. The formation of a Christian Library and Reading Room.

3rd. Rooms and accommodation for Bible Classes and Social Prayer Meetings.

4th. Courses of Lectures on religious subjects, as well as secular having reference to religion, and the employment of every other available means whereby the increase of real vital religion may be promoted.

ARTICLE III.

That as it is the desire of the Association to admit no one to membership who does not give decided evidence of his conversion to God, therefore no person shall be proposed who shall not be a member in good standing of one of the evangelical denominations. He shall be proposed by a member of the Association at one of its meetings, and shall be elected by ballot by the general Committee, after a satisfactory inquiry as to his eligibility.

ARTICLE IV.

That all members of the Association subscribing Twenty Shillings and upwards, shall be admitted to the privileges of the Library, Reading Room, and Bible Classes.

ARTICLE V.

That any person of good moral character may become an Associate member of this Association by the payment of Ten Shillings annually, and shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association, the right to vote excepted.

ARTICLE VI.

Any member on the payment of Ten Pounds at any one time, shall become a Life Member.

ARTICLE VII.

The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, Librarian, and a standing Committee, comprising as far as possible members of each evangelical denomination, all of whom shall be chosen annually by ballot.

ARTICLE VIII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

It shall be the duty of the President or one of the Vice-Presidents to preside at all Public meetings of the Association.

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to notify the members of the time and place of meeting, attend the same, to notify all Officers of their election, and to keep a fair and complete record of the transactions of the Association.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be the organ of the Association in its conference with other societies, and shall retain copies of all letters written by him.

The Treasurer shall collect and pay all monies of the Association under direction of the Committee, shall keep a correct account of the same, and shall report, whenever required to do so, to the Committee, and to the Association at least once a year.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to keep in order all books and documents of the Association, to keep a correct catalogue of the same, and an accurate account of all books delivered to all members.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to manage all the affairs of the Association, to make Bye-Laws, appoint special Committees, decide on all applications for membership, appoint a Recording Secretary and Librarian, and take whatever steps may be necessary for the promotion of the objects of the Association.

ARTICLE IX.

All meetings of the Association, and of the Committee, shall be opened and closed with prayer.

APPENDIX, No. 1.

TENTH COURSE OF LECTURES,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
DURING THE WINTER SESSION OF 1862-3.

1. Models and Motives for Young Men, by the Rev. R. SEDGWICK.
2. "A man's a man for a' that:" by the Rev. J. LATHERN.
3. Our indebtedness to the Bible : by the Rev. JNO. PRYOR, D.D.
4. The London Pulpit : by P. LYNCH, Esq.
5. The use of History : by JOHN L. PAYZANT, Esq.
6. Physical Geography : by HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.
7. The Philosophy of Science, the Arts and the Revelation of God : by the Rev. Dr. KNOX.

Dr. *Halifax Young Men's Christian Association in Account with the Treasurer.* Dr.

LIBRARY AND NEWS ROOM,
OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 9 O'CLOCK, a. m., TO 10 p. m.
72 Barrington Street.

LECTURES
EVERY ALTERNATE TUESDAY DURING WINTER,
At Temperance Hall, at 7 1-2 o'clock.

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE CLASS
Every Saturday evening, at 8 1-4 o'clock.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
Meets Quarterly.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meets Weekly.

By permission of the Association's Committee, the Committees of the Nova Scotian Bible Society, Mic-Mac Mission and City Mission, and other benevolent Societies, hold their Monthly Meetings in the Rooms of the Association, and transact their ordinary business.